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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

INCREASED CHINESE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, 1952

[This report gives data on agricultural conditions and pro-
duction in China from regional and provincial areas, as reported
by several Chinese mainland newspapers. References to conditions
prior to the fall of the KMT government have been included to show
the improvement during the past 3 years.

By 1949, production of many crops was less than half the pre-
war level. Since 1949, there has been yearly progress, and, in
1952, harvests almost everywhere were above prewar levels. Indi-
viduals and mutual aid teams produced exceptionally high yields
in certain provinces.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources./

A. Situation at Time of Liberation

As far as production was concerned, the situation of agriculture at the
time of liberation from the KMT was gloomy. This was considered due to 8 years
of war against Japan and 3 years of struggle for liberation from the Chiang
"bandits." Oppressive landlords were also blamed, and it was considered that
good production could not be expected when dikes needed repairs, forests were
despoiled, tools and implements were worn out, and farm animals were seriously
depleted in number. In the whole nation plow animals had decreased by 16 per-
cent (3), while in Hapeh Province they had decreased by 35.4 percent.(9)

Important farm implements had decreased in the whole nation by 30 percent.
Villages were described as being "poor and desolate," and for many years the

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farmers had been unable to keep warm or to satisfy their hunger.(3) They had been forced to live on "chaff and vegetables" for half of each year.

The situation on Hainan Island had been especially difficult. Among the Li and Miao tribes there, crop production had been so meager that every year, faced with scarcity of food between crops, the people went to the mountains to gather leaves, grass, and even the bark of trees for food.(13)

The low level of production is indicated by figures given for a few provinces. Anhwei Province reported a decline year after year until by 1949, food production was only 44.2 percent of the prewar level, cotton was down to 48.3 percent, tobacco down to 49.3 percent and tea to 31.1 percent of the prewar level.(6) Hopeh Province reported the level of production lowered to 74.7 percent of the average level of prewar times (9), and Hupeh Province reports indicated production down to 53 percent of the prewar level.(10)

B. Increased Production in Spite of Difficulties

In Hopeh Province the good record for 1951 was achieved in spite of the fact that one third of the cultivated area experienced severe drought.(9) Hupeh Province likewise did well in spite of unprecedented dry weather, the worst in 60 years, causing a production loss of 2,600,000 catties of grain.(10) During 1952, East China suffered from several typhoons and some sections had other natural disasters such as floods, drought, and insect depredation.(1)

An unusual hindrance to crop production on Hainan Island has been the inroads of wild animals. Twice the government instituted general hunts for wild pigs and mouse deer. According to the first reports, in Pei-sha Hsien alone, 3,504 wild pigs, 720 deer 3,301 mouse deer, and 505 monkeys were killed. This greatly lessened the crop losses from depredations of wild creatures.(13)

C. Data Showing Increased Production

In 1952, there was a generally good harvest of all grains throughout China. First estimates considered that the best prewar record would be surpassed by 9 percent. The best crops were in the Northeast and in the Autonomous Region of Inner Mongolia. In places in the Northeast the harvest was the best in 10 years. In the whole of the Northeast the crop was from 85 to 90 percent of a full harvest. In Kirin Province it was 100 percent.(1) On the plains of Chahar, yearly subjected to natural disasters, farmers exceeded the average production of prewar years by 19.4 percent.(5) In Suiyuan, although the people are backward in cultivation techniques, production exceeded the 1949 output by 150 percent.(5)

Food production, all-important to the nation, showed a marked increase. It is estimated that in 1952, in the whole of North China, food production would rise to a very high level; 3 percent higher than that of prewar times. In North China, 40 percent of the households have a food surplus.(2) At the time of liberation from the KMT, food production was down to 74.6 percent of prewar times but in 3 years it has been restored to and has surpassed prewar levels. It was estimated that the 1952 grain production of the whole nation would exceed the prewar figures by 9 percent.(4)

There are indications of increased crop production in all sections of the country. On the Island of Hainan, helped by loans for new tools and by instruction in cultivation, the aboriginal tribes have greatly increased their food supply.(13) In Shantung Province, some villages have increased production 214 percent over 1949.(11) In Chekiang Province food production was restored to the prewar level by 1951.(8)

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Figures for food production for Anhwei Province show that if the prewar level is reckoned as 100 the following annual data for the province is obtained.

	<u>Prewar</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	
Food production for Anhwei	100	63.7	115.6	134.2	(6)

While revealing notable gains, Anhwei's production is still not up to the national average as shown in the following figures.

	<u>Prewar</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	
National production	100	117	128	140	(4)
				(estimated)	

High production records per mou [one mou equals 1/6 acre] are given for several crops.

1. Rice

In 1952, in southern Kiangsu near Wu-hsi, 200 households produced more than 1,000 catties per mou. It is estimated that several thousand families in southern Kiangsu in 1952 produced 1,000 catties per mou.(1) In Anhwei Province, in 1952, there was a record of 1,582 catties per mou(6), while in the An-ching Special Administrative District of that province there was one large area in 1952 producing 1,000 and some hundreds of catties per mou.(1)

2. Wheat

In Anhwei Province, in 1951, a high record of 565 catties of wheat per mou was established, with a still higher record of 633 catties per mou in 1952.(6) In Hopeh Province, high yields in 1952 of 689 catties per mou and in Shantung Province, in 1952, yields of 915 catties per mou broke all previous records for those provinces.(9)

3. Millet

In the former P'ingyuan Province [abolished by the Peiping government, as of 15 November 1952], one man in 1951 produced 1,022 catties per mou. There were 40 agricultural production units with more than 1,000 catties per mou in 1952.(5) In Hopeh Province, a record of 1,178 catties per mou was made in 1950.(9)

4. Maize

In the case of maize, in Hopeh Province, in 1952, 59 households in one group of villages raised over 1,000 catties per mou.(5) One man in 1951, produced 1,520 catties per mou.(9) In Shantung Province, in 1951, production of 1,627 catties per mou broke the record.(11)

5. Tea

Tea production has made significant advances. The national figures for 1952 were estimated to be 250 percent over those of 1950.(4) Anhwei Province showed an increase of 96 percent over 1950 and 33.7 percent over 1951.(6) The amount of red tea sold outside the Province in 1952 has already been restored to 88 percent of the prewar level.(6) In Chekiang Province, 1952 tea production was 143 percent better than for 1949.(8)

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6. Tobacco

In tobacco the nation is now self-sufficient. The national production for 1952 was estimated to be 200 percent over 1950.(4)

7. Cotton

Cotton has shown remarkable recovery. By 1950, it had already exceeded the prewar level.(2) It is estimated that by 1952 cotton production in North China will exceed the prewar level by 70 percent (2) and cotton production in the whole nation would exceed prewar figures by 50 percent. In cotton the nation is now self-sufficient.(3)

If the production figures for 1949 are taken as 100 the following interesting comparison appears.

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	
Cotton	100	159	252	300 (estimated)	(4)

Cotton production in the whole of Hupeh Province in 1952 will equal that of prewar times.(10) In Chekiang Province in 1952, cotton production will be 190 percent better than 1949.(8)

In individual records Ch'u Yao-li, in 1951, made the highest record in the country by producing 912 catties of cotton per mou (5). In Anhwei Province, in 1951, a high record of 403 catties was produced.(6) In Hupeh, in 1952, there was a record of 500 catties per mou (10), and in Hopeh Province, in 1951, a record of 763 catties per mou.(9)

8. Hemp

In Chekiang Province, in 1952, 12 times as much hemp is expected to be produced as in 1949.(8)

9. Silk

It is estimated that in 1952 the silk production for the nation will be 50 percent more than in 1950.(4)

D. Elements Aiding Production

1. New Equipment

In the former P'ingyuan Province, farmers bought 7,000 walking plows and 19,000 sprayers.(5) In Shantung Province, where for thousands of years farmers had used clumsy implements for cultivation, they have repaired the old-style implements and have made plans for an implement-making industry, emphasizing new-type implements. By 1951, they had repaired enough implements to provide 85 percent of the prewar number. Over 110,000 new implements were added, such as "liberation-style" water wheels, walking plows, and sprayers. Forty-two tool and implement-making factories, large and small, were established.(11)

2. Improved Seeds

In Hopeh Province, better-grade seed was used on 57 percent of the cotton acreage.(9) In Anhwei Province, 40 percent of the cotton came from improved seed.(6) In Hupeh Province, improved wheat seed was planted on 5 million mou, or 7 percent of the wheat acreage.(10) In Shantung Province, improved seed was used on 3,250,000 mou.(11) In Hupeh Province, for 3 years farmers have promoted

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the better grade "victory" rice which is now used on 20 percent of the acreage.(10) In Hopeh Province, one fourth of the acreage planted in grain was planted with seed recommended by the State Farms.(9)

3. Women Work in Fields

In Shantung Province, women have come to be an "essential element in the struggle for increased production." Not only have they shared in lighter tasks, such as seed selection and cotton picking, but also in the heavy work of plowing. Some 30-40 percent of the country women engage in this work.(11)

According to a story from Hainan Island the aboriginal tribes had not been accustomed to have their women work in the fields; but in the movement for abundant harvests, not only did the women actively participate in the lighter activities, but some even learned to plow and harrow the fields, their labor being an important element in the successful production of a good harvest. This year at the time of the National Festival, the Autonomous Government of Hainan staged a plowing contest for women. The three women who won top honors were each presented with a plow, 10 feet of cloth, and a photograph of Chairman Mao.(13)

4. Enthusiasm of the People

All classes, party members, those in government offices, citizens, cadres, and soldiers showed a fine spirit of cooperation. Farmers came to realize that individual profit is one with national gain. They developed a warm love for their ancestral land, for labor, and for their great leader, Chairman Mao.(11) In Hopeh Province, the government plan for increased production became the plan of the masses of farmers.(5) All considered it a mark of glory to become model workers.(3) In one village in Shansi Province all the farmers, after democratic discussion, decided on ten big changes to accomplish a 5-year plan for reconstruction, seeking within 5 years to double the production from each mou of land.(5)

The people are urged not to become complacent about having surpassed the prewar levels of agricultural production which are, after all, the "pitiable low levels of a semifeudalistic and semicolonial age."(9)

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3. Paoting, Hopeh Jih-pao, 30 Sep 52
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5. Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 7 Dec 52
6. Hefei, Anhwei Jih-pao, 4 Oct 52
7. Ibid., 13 Aug 52
8. Hangchow, Chekiang Jih-pao, 25 Sep 52

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9. Paoting, Hopeh Jih-pao, 1 Oct 52
10. Hankow, Hupeh Jih-pao, 5 Oct 52
11. Tsinan, Ta Chung Jih-pao, 30 Sep 52
12. Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 7 Dec 52
13. Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 3 Dec 52

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